

5. MITIGATION STRATEGY

The State of Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Strategy has a common guiding principle as expressed through its mission statement. Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Strategy is the demonstration of the state's commitment to reduce risks from hazards, and serves as a guide for State decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of hazards.

To help implement this strategy and adhere to this mission statement, the preceding section of the Plan Update was focused on identifying and quantifying the risks faced by the residents and property owners in the State of Louisiana from natural and manmade hazards. By articulating goals and objectives based on the risk assessment results, and intending to address those results, this section sets the stage for identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound actions to be promoted at the parish and municipal level—and to be undertaken by the state for its own property and assets. By doing so, the state can make progress toward reducing identified risks.

For the purposes of this Plan Update, goals and action items are defined as follows:

- **Goals** are general guidelines that explain what the State wants to achieve. Goals are expressed as broad policy statements representing desired long-term results.
- **Action Items** are the specific steps (projects, policies, and programs) that advance a given Goal. They are highly focused, specific and measurable.

GOALS

The current goals of the state's hazard mitigation teams represent long-term commitments by the State of Louisiana. After assessing these goals, the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (SHMPC) has decided that the current five goals are valid. Four of those goals are from the 2011 Plan Update, while a fifth goal was added as an amendment in May 2013 as part of a programmatic agreement between the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The actions this Plan Update names are only suggestions and cannot be enforced by the Plan.

The goals are as follows:

- Goal 1:** **The State of Louisiana will improve education and outreach efforts regarding potential impacts of hazards and the identification of specific measures that can be taken to reduce their impact.**

- Goal 2:** The State of Louisiana will improve data collection, use and sharing to reduce the impacts of hazards.
- Goal 3:** The State of Louisiana will improve capabilities and coordination at the municipal, parish, regional and state level to plan and implement hazard mitigation projects.
- Goal 4:** The State of Louisiana will continue to pursue opportunities to reduce impacts to the State's manmade and natural environment through mitigation of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties and other appropriate construction projects and related activities.
- Goal 5:** The State of Louisiana will improve on the protection of its Historic Structures/Buildings, Traditional Cultural Properties and Archaeological Sites from natural and man-made hazards.

The Mitigation Action Plan focuses on actions to be taken by GOHSEP and the SHMC. It is important to note that many of the mitigation actions identified below are activities (education, training, facilitating, etc.) as opposed to "brick and mortar" projects, most of which are the purview of local sub-grantees. As such, demonstrating cost effectiveness of identified state actions can be difficult. Costs can be quantified, but specific benefits are more ephemeral. Additionally, while Goal #4 is clearly focused on supporting the development and implementation of cost effective projects, the Plan does not identify projects to implement in specific locations or situations. However, all of the activities in this Mitigation Action Plan will be focused on helping municipalities, parishes and State agencies in developing and funding projects that are not only cost effective but also meet the other DMA 2000 criteria of environmental compatibility and technical feasibility.

ACTIONS

In order to determine the actions for this Plan Update, the SHMPC convened a stakeholder meeting on November 7, 2013 and asked attendees to fill out evaluations of each action from the previous Plan Update after it was presented and discussed. Evaluations were based on whether actions were (1) technically feasible, (2) cost effective, and (3) environmentally sound. Evaluation proved somewhat difficult since many of the actions comprised indirect activities, while the committee asked for a balance of direct (measurable) and indirect actions. After evaluating each action, participants were then asked to prioritize the actions based on four criteria:

- Is it based on risk assessment?
- Is there a link to parish plans?
- Does it contribute to mitigations goals?

Is it measurable?

After this process, three new measurable actions were added to the pre-existing ten, along with three new indirect actions. None of the previous actions were fully completed. Each action is listed below with its summary description; its status; an update on it; the organization(s) responsible for it; a timeframe for its completion; and its evaluation and priority ranking at the meeting.

Action 1.1 *Statewide Education and Outreach*

Summary Description: Support start-up and implementation of the Community Education Outreach (CEO) program and institutionalize practices for after the completion of CEO.

Status: Ongoing

Update: The mission of the GOHSEP Community Education and Outreach Program is to inform citizens, business owners, visitors, and government officials about the risk they face, what can be done to reduce those risks and how investing in certain mitigation measures can be cost-effective.

CEO Partnerships include the following:

- LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI)
 - The purpose of this interagency agreement is for GOHSEP to provide funding to SDMI in order to implement mitigation and preparedness outreach and education projects through a center run by SDMI intended for small business owners and non-profit organizations throughout the State. The goal of this project is to assist in meeting the Statewide Hazard Mitigation goals, as stated in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, by promoting regional and community sustainability and resilience through better prepared businesses; promoting public-private partnership for same.
- Building Officials Association of Louisiana (BOAL)
 - The purpose of this cooperative endeavor agreement is to partner with BOAL to assist GOHSEP in disseminating important information on hazard and risk reduction opportunities and techniques in a format that both the construction professional and the typical citizen can understand. Providing educational and outreach opportunities on hazard mitigation to the construction industry is a key goal of the Statewide Community Education and Outreach project.
- The University of New Orleans (UNO-CHART)
 - The goals of this interagency agreement include:
 - Create a culture of mitigation
 - Promote community-based mitigation
 - Promote personal responsibility

- Promote regional partnerships
- Build mitigation capacity at every level of society.
- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter)
 - Through the LSU Agricultural Center, GOHSEP will expand and enhance its hazard mitigation education program to increase understanding of hazards and adoption of practices that will reduce damage in future events and to be more hazard resistant. The program, while primarily for adult audiences, will educate and engage youth in hazard mitigation through 4-H Youth and Family Development program, and will use technology, modeling, graphics, animation and social media tools to increase interest in mitigation principles and projects.
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette, National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT)
 - The purpose of this interagency agreement is to provide, through the CEO Program, much needed natural hazard and risk information and disaster analytics accessible to all interested parties, allowing a better understanding of the risks faced from various hazards and, more importantly, how to reduce identified risks. One of the key elements of the CEO Program is the collection and dissemination of hazard and risk data in a format that the everyday citizen can understand and use to make informed decisions about the amount or degree of risk they are willing to accept. The information contained in the disaster informatics repository will aid in the creating of disaster declarations and aid elected officials in making critical public safety decisions about hazards and response to such.
- Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
 - The purpose of this agreement is to minimize risk and prepare for future disasters as well as provide critical Environmental and Historic Preservation information, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to the citizens and leaders of Louisiana, implemented through the CEO program and in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHIPO).

CEO activities over the past 3 years include the following:

- Disaster Resilient University Statewide Conference
 - UNO-CHART hosted the Disaster Resistant University Workshop 2011– Building Partnerships in Mitigation, February 16-18, 2011, on its main campus. The Workshop was attended by more than 100 participants representing 25 universities/colleges from around the country and Canada. A second Workshop, held March 20-22, 2013, included over 130 attendees representing 36 universities and colleges from around the country, plus Canada, Japan, and South Africa. Presentation topics included but were not limited to mitigation

program assessment, campus violence, risk communication, mitigation planning, risk assessment, floodproofing, and instructional continuity.

- Community Executives Program in Risk Management
 - Since 2011, the CHART team facilitated Executive Symposia in Resilience and Risk Management intended to enhance the capacity of Louisiana community and business leaders to make strategic decisions related to risk management based on sound, scientific principles of resilience. Additional meetings will be held in 2014.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP/State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 22

Priority Ranking: 10

Action 1.2 Education and Outreach for State Agencies

Summary Description: Develop and implement an "internal" state agency mitigation education and outreach program (parallel to the public education and outreach program (Action 1.1)

Status: Not Started

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 21.06

Priority Ranking: 16

Action 1.3 Analyze Past Education and Outreach Efforts

Summary Description: Analyze past outreach efforts and update them as needed based on anticipated local mitigation strategies.

Status: New

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Short Term

Evaluation Score: 22.25

Priority Ranking: 5

Action 2.1 Statewide Data-Related Efforts

Summary Description: Define and implement appropriate institutional arrangements for collection, use and sharing data for parishes and municipalities.

Status: Ongoing

Update: In May 2013, GOHSEP and NIMSAT (National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies) entered into phase 2 of the development of Louisiana All-Hazard Information Portal (LAHIP) a web-based portal to provide easy access to hazard and risk-related data, and to improve the system for collection and management of historical data. LAHIP is intended to assist in development and maintenance of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, but also to support parishes and local communities with their respective hazard mitigation, continuity of operations, and other planning efforts.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP / NIMSAT

Timeframe: Intermediate

Evaluation Score: 23.13

Priority Ranking: 9

Action 2.2 Data-Related Efforts for State Agencies

Summary Description: Develop and implement hazard data management program for State agencies-this may be addressed by CEO through a grant to maintain a portal for ORM and agencies to upload building inventory data.

Status: Not Started

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Intermediate

Evaluation Score: 22.19

Priority Ranking: 7

Action 3.1 Technical Support for Parish and Municipal Hazard Mitigation Planning

Summary Description: Provide technical support to municipalities, parishes or groups of parishes for on-going and continuing municipal hazard mitigation planning efforts.

Status: Ongoing

Update: BCA training is provided at least once a year to local jurisdictions. Planning workshops were provided to affected plan holders after Hurricane Isaac.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 24.44

Priority Ranking: 3

Action 3.2 Technical Support for State Agencies Hazard Mitigation Planning

Summary Description: Increased hazard mitigation planning and implementation capability for State agencies to include Board of Regents and technical assistance to DRU's.

Status: Ongoing

Update: 8 university plans approved where approved during the past 3 years.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 21.06

Priority Ranking: 13

Action 3.3 Plan Integration

Summary Description: Conduct follow-up activities to engage members of the SHMPC in a review of planning and implementation activities under their jurisdictions and responsibility.

Status: Ongoing

Update: The operations section and hazard mitigation section of GOHSEP has worked together to develop the current THIRA and HIRA plans.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 24.44

Priority Ranking: 6

Action 3.4 Complete Web-Based Grant Administration Tool

Summary Description: The State of Louisiana has started building a web-based grant administration tool, LouisianaHM.com, which will allow both GOHSEP and its sub-applicants to create and administer Hazard Mitigation grants, from application development through closeout.

Status: Ongoing

Update: Expected roll out is early 2014

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Short Term

Evaluation Score: 25.75

Priority Ranking: 4

Action 4.1 Identifying Cost Effective Projects with Parishes and Municipalities

Summary Description: Work with municipalities, parishes and State agencies to identify, fund and implement cost effective projects to mitigate repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties and other appropriate risks, and to prioritize them according to cost effectiveness

Status: On Going

Update: Hurricane Isaac funding allocated over 58 million to hazard mitigation in 2013. Project applications were submitted in August 2013. Eighty-eight million in Hurricane Gustav funding

was reallocated to a statewide elevation project that will provide funding for approximately 250 SRL and RL properties.

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 23.56

Priority Ranking: 1

Action 4.2 Identifying Cost Effective Projects with State Agencies

Summary Description: Support efforts by State agencies to identify and pursue hazard mitigation projects for at-risk state-owned assets and critical infrastructure, and prioritize them according to cost-effectiveness.

Status: On Going

Update:

Table 5.1. State agency projects approved since 2010.

STATE AGENCY PROJECTS APPROVED SINCE 2010		
State Agency	Project Type	Cost
DOTD	Hurricane Screen Installation	\$ 489,442
DOTD	Wind Retrofit	\$ 86,685
Wildlife and Fisheries	Manchac Bank Stabilization	\$ 221,608
GOHSEP	Statewide Retrofit/Community Saferoom	\$ 4,100, 00

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 22.25

Priority Ranking: 8

Action 4.3 Legislative and Regulatory Enhancements

Summary Description: Support and pursue legislative agendas at municipal, parish, state and federal levels.

Status: Not Started

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 21.06

Priority Ranking: 15

Action 4.4 Enhance current State Hazard Mitigation Strategy

Summary Description: Enhance the current State Hazard Mitigation Strategy, specifically strengthening the linkage to mitigation action implementation.

Status: New

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP

Timeframe: Short Term

Evaluation Score: 25.19

Priority Ranking: 2

Action 5.1 Integrate historic preservation into hazard mitigation planning

Summary Description: Integrate historic and cultural resources protection into hazard mitigation planning to improve the ability of resources to withstand impacts of natural and man-made hazards while retaining character-defining architectural features.

Status: New

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP / SHPO

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 22.75

Priority Ranking: 12

Action 5.2 Education/Outreach for Historic Preservation Best Management Practices

Summary Description: Encourage and support opportunities for statewide stakeholders to facilitate the assessment and dissemination of appropriate mitigation techniques and Historic Preservation Best Management Practices and suitable design options for retrofitting historic properties to improve their ability to withstand impacts of natural and man-made hazards while retaining character-defining architectural features.

Status: New

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: SHPO / SHMO

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 23.50

Priority Ranking: 11

Action 5.3 Education/Outreach for Policies of Historic Preservation

Summary Description: Promote increased awareness and greater understanding of the concepts of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 and critical information regarding Louisiana Archaeology to the citizens and leaders of Louisiana.

Status: New

Update: Not Applicable

Responsible Organization: GOHSEP / SHPO

Timeframe: Long Term

Evaluation Score: 23.25

Priority Ranking: 14

These newly evaluated actions align GOHSEP's priorities with its major focus, where 90% of its funding goes: projects. Furthermore, this realignment demonstrates the importance of planning and the need for a comprehensive balanced strategy since many actions that were previously ranked high lost their place drastically. Table 5.2 compares the actions between their present priority ranking and their prior ranking.

Table 5.2. GOHSEP mitigation actions by priority.

GOHSEP MITIGATION ACTIONS BY PRIORITY			
Action	Description	Priority Ranking (2014 Update)	Prior Ranking (2011 Update)
1.1	Statewide Education and Outreach	10	1
1.2	Education and Outreach for State Agencies	16	2
1.3	Analyze Past Education and Outreach Activities	5	N/A (new action)
2.1	Statewide Data-Related Effort	9	5
2.2	Data-Related Efforts for State Agencies	7	7
3.1	Technical Support for Parish and Municipal Hazard Mitigation Planning	3	10
3.2	Technical Support for State Agencies Hazard Mitigation Planning	13	8
3.3	Plan Integration	6	6
3.4	Complete Web-Based Grant Application Tool	4	N/A (new action)
4.1	Identify Cost Effect Projects with Parishes and Municipalities	1	4
4.2	Identify Cost Effective Projects with State Agencies	8	3
4.3	Legislative and Regulatory Enhancements	15	9
4.4	Enhance current State Hazard Mitigation Strategy	2	N/A (new action)

GOHSEP MITIGATION ACTIONS BY PRIORITY			
Action	Description	Priority Ranking (2014 Update)	Prior Ranking (2011 Update)
5.1	Integrate historic preservation into hazard mitigation planning	12	N/A (new action)
5.2	Education/ Outreach for Historic Perseveration Best Management Practices	11	N/A (new action)
5.3	Education/Outreach for Polices of Historic Preservation	14	N/A (new action)

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REVIEW

Each mitigation project or activity has an established period of performance that GOHSEP and FEMA monitor throughout the development and execution of the activity. As described in the *State of Louisiana Administrative Guidelines and Procedures*, GOHSEP uses the following system for monitoring mitigation projects and project closeouts. No changes have been made to this system in this Plan Update.

MONITORING MITIGATION PROJECTS

Mitigation projects are generally monitored as follows:

- GOHSEP regularly meets with representatives from FEMA Region VI to coordinate project monitoring activities
- Every calendar quarter, GOHSEP sends correspondence to all sub-grantees with open projects (i.e., ones that have been funded but are not completed), requesting a project progress update
- Each of the sub-grantees responds to the GOHSEP request by preparing a standard report that details progress on individual mitigation projects and indicates a percent complete estimate
- GOHSEP compiles the sub-grantee progress reports and produces a consolidated quarterly report that is sent to FEMA Region VI for review. The consolidated quarterly report identifies changes from previous reports, areas of concern, and strategies to address problems

MONITORING PROJECT CLOSEOUTS

Mitigation project closeouts generally occur in the following sequence, as established in the *State of Louisiana Administrative Guidelines and Procedures* and in accordance with FEMA

requirements for State Administrative Plans and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) guidelines that are set out in the HMGP Desk Reference.

- Sub-grantee indicates in a quarterly project progress report that a mitigation project is 100% complete
- GOHSEP reconciles the FEMA SmartLink account for the project (by disaster)
- GOHSEP initiates a comprehensive internal financial audit of the project
- GOHSEP works with sub-grantees to resolve any issues discovered in the audit
- GOHSEP sends FEMA Region VI a closeout letter that identifies the final eligible cost of the project, de-obligations that are required, and any monies that will be recovered from the sub-grantee

In order to review progress on achieving goals, GOHSEP ensures that both the annual and three-year Plan evaluations include a detailed examination and analysis of the goals and the various actions that are intended to achieve them. This section of the Plan Update describes five major hazard mitigation goals and describes sixteen strategies and actions that the state is undertaking (or considering undertaking) to address the identified goals. In updated versions of the plan, GOHSEP will indicate the status of the various actions and a general indication of progress.

GOHSEP focuses on progress to mitigate repetitive loss properties and especially severe repetitive loss properties as a priority, contributing to meeting Louisiana's requirements for increased federal match on Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants.

In order to review progress on activities and projects included in the Mitigation Action Plan, and as part of the yearly and three-year evaluations and updates to this plan, GOHSEP will initiate a review of all activities and projects noted in the Mitigation Action Plan. The review takes place in five stages:

1. In cooperation with the SHMPC, GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will undertake a preliminary review and analysis of progress on the actions.
2. GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will prepare a draft report that describes progress, remaining tasks, and projected time to complete the tasks.
3. The draft report will be presented to the SHMPC during the meeting(s) related to the yearly (and three-year) updates.
4. After SHMPC review, comment, and approval, results of the progress review will be included as a new or updated column in the tabulation of mitigation goals and actions.
5. If requested by FEMA, GOHSEP will prepare a summary report describing the results of the review.